

Message Text

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21

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 INT-05 OES-03 AGR-05 COME-00

EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 HEW-02 IO-10

MED-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /065 W

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P 040510Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 377

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, SWEL, PK, IN

SUBJECT: PUNJAB WILD BOAR ERADICATION CAMPAIGN REPORTED

1. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES APRIL 1 CARRIED
GOPUNJAB ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAMPAIGN TO BE INITIATED IMMEDIATELY
TO RID PROVINCE OF WILD BOARS WHICH ARE DESTRUCTIVE TO
AGRICULTURE. PAPER QUOTED PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE AND
LIVESTOCK MINISTER AS HAVING APPROVED PLAN TO ERADICATE
BOARS BY INJECTING SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THEM WITH LARGE
DOSES OF SWINE FEVER VIRUS. THEY WOULD THEN BE TURNED LOOSE
TO SPREAD DISEASE AMONG WILD BOAR POPULATION. PAPER ALSO
CARRIED GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF CASH PRIZE OF RUPEES
100 TO ANYONE CATCHING YOUNG PIG FOR VIRUS INJECTION.

2. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH NUMBER OF SOURCES IN LAHORE
TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER ERADICATION CAMPAIGN COULD
POSSIBLY AFFECT HEALTH OF HUMANS, AND HAVE FOUND WIDE
DISAGREEMENT AMONG PERSONS CONTACTED, INCLUDING PROVINCIAL
LIVESTOCK SECRETARY, WHO IS OFFICIAL PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE
FOR CAMPAIGN. HE TOLD US SUBJECT HAD BEEN RESEARCHED BY
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LOCAL VETERINARY INSTITUTE, WHICH HAD CONCLUDED THAT

DISEASED BOARS WOULD AFFECT NEITHER HUMANS NOR OTHER SPECIES OF ANIMALS.

3. DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE BELIEVED THAT SWINE FEVER IS NOT COMMUNICABLE TO HUMANS, BUT ADVISED THAT ANY FOREIGNERS WHO MIGHT EAT WILD BOAR DESIST FROM DOING SO AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE. PRINCIPAL OF LOCAL ANIMAL HUSBANDRY COLLEGE OPINED THAT MEAT OF DISEASED BOAR SHOULD NOT BE EATEN, EVEN IF WELL COOKED. HOWEVER, HE AGREED WITH OTHERS THAT CONTACT WITH DISEASED BOAR WOULD NOT BE INJURIOUS TO HUMAN HEALTH. ON OTHER HAND, PRIVATE LOCAL DOCTORS HAVE TOLD US THEY BELIEVE FEVER COULD BE TRANSMITTED TO HUMANS VIA HOG SPORES OR SALIVA.

4. WE ALSO ASSUME THAT ANY DISEASE INDUCED IN WEST PUNJAB WOULD EVENTUALLY SPREAD TO CONTIGUOUS STATES OF INDIA TO WHICH WILD BOARS ALSO FLEE TO ESCAPE PAKISTANI HUNTERS. AND WE ASSUME THAT VIRUS COULD BE PASSED FROM WILD BOAR TO DOMESTIC SWINE IN INDIA (ASPECT ON WHICH WE CAN GET LITTLE INFO IN THIS MUSLIM COUNTRY).

5. IN NEXT ISSUE OF OUR WEEKLY CONGEN BULLETIN, WE PLAN TO WARN LOCAL AMERICAN RESIDENTS TO AVOID EATING WILD BOAR MEAT, AND SUGGEST ADDRESSEE POSTS IN PAKISTAN DO SAME AS PRECAUTION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY LIGHT WHICH ISLAMABAD (DR. MILTON AND USAID AGRICULTURE DIVISION) OR DEPARTMENT CAN SHED ON ABOVE QUESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. COMMENTS OF OTHER ADDRESSEE POSTS -- ESPECIALLY NEW DELHI RE PARA 4 ABOVE -- ON IMPLICATIONS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME.
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